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{Private}

PAID

Rev. A. A. Phelps

Boston

Massachusetts

Single Paid

Confidence in J. mentioned

Gerrit Smith

Peterboro March 28. 1839

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My dear Butler,

Last evening I received your letter. Its contents shall be known to none but my wife & myself. I must still believe that Garrison is an honest man. His attacks on Slavery & myself have somewhat weakened my confidence in the soundness of his mind & the amiableness of his heart. These attacks show, that he is credulous & jealous to a great degree. Be very patient with him, my dear Brother.

I have just read your address to the "Friends of Reform". I admit that you make out a strong case in favor of the N.Y. Committee & against the Executive Board: and yet I deeply regret that the N.Y. Committee have not waited until May, before declaring the arrangement null & void. But in this subject, as in some others, I hope to have a long talk with you, if I go to Utica this Spring.

I cannot accept the invitation, which the Anti-Slavery Friends have so kindly & complimentarily extended to me thro' yourself. I am overwhelmed with business & engagements of various sorts: and it is not very certain, that I shall attend the approaching Anniversaries. But I think I shall.

Notwithstanding the great pressure on my time, I am so impressed with the value of Henry Clay's speech, as to wish it. I feel it to be very important, that there be an extended & somewhat elaborate review of that pernicious speech. I have already blocked out my Review. It will make a pamphlet of some 40 or 50 pages - and will, I think, be a tolerably useful, because it is a reply to "Henry Clay's Speech".

With great regard
Yours truly
Gerrit Smith

Rev. A. A. Phelps -